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Claim Listing

1. (Previously presented) A powder comprising metal containing or metal alloy containing anisotropic particles, wherein said powder is produced by a method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) heating a starting powder consisting essentially of non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles under conditions suitable for initial stage sintering, thereby forming a lightly sintered material; and
 - (b) breaking the lightly sintered material, thereby producing a powder comprising anisotropic particles having irregular morphology, said particles comprising aggregated and fused non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles having an air-laid density which is lower than the air-laid density of said starting powder.
2. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein step (a) and step (b) are performed, in sequence, two or more times.
3. (Original) The powder of Claim 2 wherein the lightly sintered material is broken by agitating said material.
4. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein the powder comprising non-dendritic particles is heated in step (a) in a substantially uniform layer.
5. (Original) The powder of Claim 4 wherein the layer has a thickness of about two centimeters or less.
6. Canceled.
7. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein the lightly sintered material is broken by brushing said material through a screen.

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8. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein step (a) is conducted at a pressure between 0 atmospheres and about 1.5 atmospheres.
- 9 (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein step (a) is conducted under vacuum, in an inert atmosphere or in a hydrogen atmosphere.
10. (Original) The powder of Claim 9 wherein the inert atmosphere comprises dinitrogen, argon, or helium.
11. Canceled.
- 12 (Previously presented) The powder of Claim 11 wherein said powder has an air-laid density of about 2.4 g/cm^3 .
13. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 wherein the alloy is a stainless steel.
14. (Original) The powder of Claim 13 wherein said powder has an air-laid density of about 1.5 g/cm^3 .
15. (Original) The powder of Claim 1 having a purity essentially equal to that of the starting powder.
16. Canceled.
17. Canceled.
18. (Previously presented) A powder comprising metal containing or metal alloy containing anisotropic metal particles having irregular morphology, said particles comprising aggregated and fused non-dendritic metal or metal alloy containing particles
19. (Original) The powder of Claim 18 wherein the metal alloy is a stainless steel.